

FROM THE FARM



Anvifish: the farmers' experience

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Mr Bui Phu Kiet, Assistant of General Director, Anvifish

Mr Do Minh Thuc, Vice Quality Manager, and Mr Bui Phu Kiet, Assistant of General Director, describe why Anvifish, which was established in 2004, is committed to responsible pangasius production and aims to become one of the top three biggest pangasius producers of Vietnam.

Why we chose ASC certification Our senior management is committed to improving our environmental conditions, product quality and responsible social development to help ensure the sustainable development of pangasius farming and processing in Vietnam.

To enable this the Anvifish Board of Directors chose ASC certification to help it meet its commitment to sustainability and to gain access to the European high-end market. The process was initiated in 2011 and began with an assessment of our farms against the ASC Pangasius Standard in the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership's (SFP) benchmarking project.

What makes us different? For many years our farms were already certified for GLOBALG.A.P. and Global Aquaculture Alliance's Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) Standards. This meant that we were prepared when we integrated our existing aquaculture management system with the requirements of the ASC Pangasius Standard.

As a general rule we also carry out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for our farms to ensure good aquaculture practice. Therefore, the biodiversity, water use and discharge requirements of the ASC Pangasius Standard had already

been met and approved by the local authority as a part of the EIA.

Reducing negative impacts on the environment To meet the ASC Pangasius Standard we carried out measurements of the embankment heights, collected data of flood crests in the last 10 years and installed a trapping device for escape management.

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We also set up our own hatchery with a total surface of 2.09 ha and broodstock from the Research Institute for Aquaculture 2 (RIA 2) that supplies about 6,000,000 fingerlings per year.

Supporting employees and the local community Through the ASC assessment process we have learnt that participatory social impact assessment is the best way to resolve conflicts with local communities. This made our communication with the local community more transparent and it helped to develop our farm's ties with local communities.

For the future Being responsible ensures our sustainability and will help us get through periods when the sector faces challenges. To farms that want to become ASC certified, we would say that focusing on the infrastructure should be their first consideration.